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96.00 Utility Accommodation
96.20 Location Requirements
96.26 Scenic Considerations

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A. General Policy

When feasible, the Department strives to enhance visual qualities of the highway system by:

1. The retention and/or planting of trees, shrubs and other vegetation.
2. The selection of special alignments and corridors.
3. The acquisition of scenic easements.

Utilization of highways by utilities requires that the type and size of its facilities and the manner and extent of its installations shall not materially impair the scenic quality, appearance, or view of highway roadsides and adjacent areas.

B. Scenic Areas

Areas which have been acquired or set aside for their scenic quality, such as scenic strips, overlooks, rest areas, recreation areas, public parks, historic sites, etc., and the right-of-way which traverses these areas, are in a special category and new utility installations shall not be permitted except as provided in this section.

1. New underground utility installations may be permitted within scenic areas when the installation does not require extensive removal or alteration of trees or other natural features visible to the highway user and does not impair the visual quality of the lands being traversed.
2. New overhead installations shall be prohibited at such locations where there is a feasible and prudent alternative to the use of scenic areas by the overhead facility. When this is not the case, installations will be considered only where:
 - a. Other locations are unusually difficult, unreasonably costly, or are undesirable from the standpoint of visual quality,
 - b. An underground installation is not technically feasible or is unreasonably costly, and
 - c. The proposed installation can be made at a location (and will employ suitable designs and materials) which gives adequate protection to the visual qualities of the area being traversed.
3. These controls shall also be followed in the location and design of utility installations that are needed for a highway purpose, such as for continuous

highway lighting, or to serve a weigh station, rest or recreational area.